

## New Bessemer Recycling Center



AEC is helping the City of Bessemer to build a new recycling center. The new Bessemer center will be built on the site of Bessemer's existing recycling facility. That recycling drop-off, which presently accepts only paper and cardboard, is located at 1601 First Ave. North, on land that is owned by the city. The new facility will accept a much wider range of materials, including glass, metals and plastic.

More than half the cost of construction of the new facility will be covered by a contribution of \$100,000 from the city's federal Community Development Block Grant funds. AEC has provided the remainder from the organization and grants that came through ADEM's Recycling Grant program, which also provided funding for a majority of the equipment that will be used to process materials.

Mayor Gulley and Bessemer City Councilors are very excited about this new opportunity for city residents to increase local recycling. They also look forward to this being an example for what drop-off recycling centers can be and invite visitors far and wide to recycle there when complete. Stay tuned to AEC for further information.

## ENERGY PROGRAM UPDATE

As many of you know, AEC has reached a number of milestones in its energy work in the last few years. Much of our increased involvement last year was made possible with foundation funding for the work of Energy Policy Manager



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### Solar Mapping Project - You Can Help!



In a [recent study](#), Alabama tied for 8th among states that would benefit from generating, using and exporting solar energy. At AEC, we believe that Alabama could be implementing solar energy technology to a much greater extent. We plan to collaborate with the University of

Alabama at Birmingham to create an interactive map that illustrates existing Alabama solar energy projects. This map will be a valuable informational resource and an important policy driver. While neighboring states are building their robust solar energy industries, Alabama is lagging behind. Mapping and providing information about solar installers and installations will help us identify economic opportunities for growing our own nascent solar energy industry.

AEC seeks volunteers to help gather, synthesize and analyze data for the first phase of our project. Anyone who is skilled in gathering and analyzing data and/or has an interest in solar energy, environmental issues and improving Alabama's energy landscape is encouraged to apply and be a part of this exciting project! Please send an email to [energy@aeconline.org](mailto:energy@aeconline.org) to join in.

### Support Building for Clean Power Plan

Environmental advocates across the nation are applauding the announcement of the new federal carbon pollution guidelines that will address climate change, protect public health, and grow a clean energy economy. Rules that have been in the works for years were

Haley Colson. That grant has come to a close and Haley will leave AEC after more than a year with the organization. Among other things, she helped coordinate the POWER-UP Energy Forum in December and a solar roundtable this spring as well as doing background research needed for her representation of AEC at Alabama Public Service Commission public meetings. During her tenure, she has designed and started a solar mapping project, managed interns, and produced several white papers that can be found on the website, including an important piece on [Planning for Alabama's Energy Future](#).

I hope you will join AEC in thanking Haley for her many contributions! AEC will continue to seek ways to meet Alabamians' current energy needs without compromising the ability of future generations to meet theirs. AEC provides environmental and economic information on energy based on sound scientific research and analysis. Honoring its grassroots background, the organization is generating opportunities for Alabamians to shape a long-term, safe, secure, affordable, and clean energy future.



"Toxic City: Birmingham's Dirty Secret" premiered Thursday, June 12 at the Historic Carver Theatre, receiving a standing ovation from the large, diverse crowd. Due to the overwhelmingly positive response and subsequent demand for additional screenings, GASP will be hosting an encore presentation at Trim Tab Brewing Co. on Monday, July 21 at 6 p.m. Doors open at 5 p.m. Admission is a \$5 tax-deductible donation, which supports GASP's mission to activate Alabama for clean air.

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announced Monday morning that seek to reduce carbon emissions by 30% from the power sector below 2005 levels by 2030.

"With today's announcement, the EPA is taking a big step toward cutting carbon emissions from the power sector that will decrease our impacts on the climate, have positive impacts on public health, and provide a framework for cleaner energy generation into the future," said Michael Churchman, executive director of the Alabama Environmental Council. Read more [on our website](#).

## Plastic Free July

Join thousands taking the challenge to refuse single-use plastic. You can sign up for a day or a week if the whole month sounds overwhelming. [Sign up](#) to get recipes, ideas & everything you need to take part.

Our friends at [MyGreenBirmingham.com](#) are rallying the citizens of Birmingham to take the pledge. Share your reasons for getting involved, plastic free tips, and challenge pictures on social media using the hashtag [#bhamplasticfreechallenge](#).



## ATR Achieves R2 & ISO 14001 Certifications

[Advanced Technology Recycling](#)

(ATR), a nationwide electronics recycling company, has achieved both R2-2013 and ISO 14001 certifications for their newest facility in Hoover, AL. ATR is currently the only electronics recycling company operating in central Alabama to hold these certifications.



The EPA encourages consumers to choose R2-certified electronics recyclers because of the benefits they provide, including:

- Reducing environmental and human health impacts from improper recycling;
- Increasing access to quality reusable and refurbished equipment to those who need them; and
- Reducing energy use and other environmental impacts associated with mining and processing of virgin materials – conserving our limited natural resources.

ISO 14001 is a voluntary program that maps out a framework to set up an effective environmental management system to provide assurances that environmental impact is being measured and improved.

For more information about ATR, contact Nick Lee, Business Development Manager (205) 978-7779, email [d.lee@atrecycle.com](mailto:d.lee@atrecycle.com)

## Defend Rivers Paddle on July 18th

This free event will give us all a chance to get out on the water in our state's capitol and showcase your love for Alabama's rivers!

**When:** July 18, 2014. Meet and launch boats from 9-10:00 am and wrap up at 3:00 pm.





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**Where:** The Alabama River, putting in at Montgomery Marina and taking out at Powder Magazine Park. (Shuttles provided.)

**What:** A fun paddle event promoting the Defend Rivers campaign. This trip is suitable for all ages and skill levels. We will have a free lunch catered by Dreamland Barbecue and a drinking water toast to Alabama's rivers.

Bring your own boat or borrow one of ours! Register at [DefendRivers.org](http://DefendRivers.org).

## Upcoming Recycling Events

- [Alabama Recycling Coalition Conference & Expo](#), July 23-25, at the Montgomery Marriott Prattville Hotel & Conference Center at Capitol Hill. Participants will hear from recycling professionals regarding residential, commercial, and institutional recycling programs. The conference begins with an optional golf outing and concludes with a choice in touring the Hyundai or Montgomery's new Advanced Mixed Materials Recovery Facility.
- [Recycling & Waste Reduction Summit](#), October 30, at the Birmingham Botanical Gardens. Join educators, students, municipalities, and engaged citizens at the Alabama Environmental Council's inaugural recycling summit.

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